

# STATEMENT OF FACTS BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE WESTERN COLLEGE.

Submitted by Dr. J. H. Garnett, President.

The Board of Managers of the Western College and Industrial Institution located at Macon, Missouri, desires to make the following statement of facts to its friends, concerning its purchase and ownership of the property located at 33rd street and Jackson avenue Kansas City, Mo.

For the past twenty years the college has been located at Macon, Mo., and during its existence there, we are proud to say, has accomplished a great work of education for the ambitious youth of our race. As a result we have men and women in many useful walks of life, and some missionaries in the foreign field. It has been the wish of the managers of the institution for a number of years to locate our college at some place where we could be in close touch with a larger Negro population than it is possible for us to reach at Macon, Mo., and also to locate our school where indigent students might find opportunities of support while endeavoring to educate themselves.

Kansas City appealed to us especially as being the center of the territory from which we draw much of our support, also because of the 30,000 Negroes located in and adjacent to Kansas City. We have investigated several locations in and about Kansas City, and finally the location at 33rd and Jackson was suggested to us by those who posed as our friends, and negotiations were entered into which led up to our purchase of this property at the sum of \$25,000. It is a tract of ten acres of land situated at the southwest corner of 33rd street and Jackson avenue, and has located upon it a big stone residence building which can be used for our purpose and other buildings which can be utilized.

We desire to say that this property had never been proposed to us by anyone prior to the beginning of the negotiations which were consummated in our purchase of this property, and we purchased same without any suggestions that there would be any opposition to our location in this district. The property is located, as can be demonstrated, by investigation, in an unimproved territory. At the time we purchased this property, there was not a sidewalk or improved street south of 31st and east of Indiana avenue, with the exception of one sidewalk. Within about three blocks of this location there is now located a colored public school and a settlement of fifty to seventy Negro families. Immediately surrounding the location are a few unpretentious homes occupied by white people, but none of them so expensive that we cannot find ready purchasers for them at their actual worth, among our people.

After looking the situation over we were impressed that this was a place where we could locate with as little opposition from the white people as any place in Kansas City. Without arguing the right or wrong of the matter, we are conscious of course that it would be difficult for us to locate anywhere without arousing some opposition from the white people. But, we are confronted with the all-important fact to us, that we are here and we are entitled to at least an opportunity to make the best of our condition and we ask from the white people their co-operation in securing for us the opportunity of doing what we can for the elevation and betterment of our race.

When it became known that this property was to be used as a site for the Western College, a Negro school, considerable opposition was manifested in the neighborhood by residents and land-owners owning land adjacent to our location. An effort was made to have the Park Board condemn the property for park purposes. This petition was rejected by the Park Board and matters were left to stand in statu quo. When it became manifest that we would not be able to occupy this property without opposition, we at once assured those opposing us that it was not our disposition to intrude ourselves upon any community where we were not wanted, as we realized that our greatest asset was the friendship of the white people, and we were willing to allow our plans to be defeated to suit their desires if the same could be done without absolute ruin to ourselves.

We expressed our willingness to postpone our plans of locating here, and offered to sell the property at exactly what it cost us. That offer has been made all along and stands good today, but no substantial attempt has been made on the part of anyone to purchase our ground.

We submit to the sense of fairness of the white people, that it is not right to ask us to sacrifice the money that we have now invested in this property. We are not able to hold the property in its present unproductive condition, and unless it is disposed of at once, we will be compelled, for our own protection, to take possession of the property and use it for the purpose we had intended.

Before we do this, we desire to place before the white people of Kansas City, who we believe will look with favor upon our efforts to help ourselves and benefit our race, a statement of the facts as we desire that our white friends shall understand fully and completely the facts with reference to this location.

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## MEN AND WOMEN OF AFFAIRS.

Mr. Burton of the Burton Publishing Co., of this city, is compiling a brief but complete and comprehensive history of the institutions, associations, societies, and clubs of Greater Kansas City, that have for their purpose the betterment and general uplift of the colored race. Emphasizing the struggle they have had in the building and maintaining, the efforts being made, and the results that are being obtained in every phase of humanitarian and philanthropic efforts. The history of each institution or association will be written by the man or woman whom is deemed best equipped, by association or knowledge of the subject, to give the desired information.

Following is a partial list, with the name of the writer of the article: Garrison Square, by R. E. L. Bailey; City Hospital, by Wm. J. Thompson; M. D.; Douglas Hospital, by S. H. Thompson; M. D.; Wheatley-Provident Hospital, by J. E. Perry, M. D.; Y. M. C. A., by R. B. DeFrantz; Y. W. C. A., by Mrs. Lydia C. Smith; Kansas City Medical Society, by G. W. Brown, M. D.; Business League, by F. J. Weaver; Western University, by Prof. H. T. Keating; Schools of Kansas City, Mo., by Prof. G. N. Gresham; Methodist Churches, by Rev. William H. Peck; Baptist Churches, by Rev. Samuel W. Rucker; Episcopal Churches, by Rev. E. S. Willett; Federated Clubs of Kansas City, Mo., by Mrs. M. A. Bailey; Federated Alumni, by Miss Anna Jones; Hod Carriers Hall, by C. H. Harris; Domestic Science in Schools, by Mrs. Fredericka D. Perry; Domestic Training in Schools, by Mrs. T. W. H. Williams; South Side Day Nursery, by Mrs. J. Abernathy; St. Simon's Nursery, by Rev. E. S. Willett; Working Girls' Home, by Mrs. L. A. McCampbell; Old Folks and Orphans' Home, by Victoria E. Overall. Others will be added as writers are obtained.

In addition to the historical feature, which will be profusely illustrated, will be a brief biography with portrait, also picture of the homes of many prominent men and women of Kansas City. The title of this work will be, "Negro Men and Women of Affairs of Greater Kansas City, and Kansas City, Kas.," and will be a work of art in every respect.

Our people are being interviewed in regard to their biographies by Mr. George W. Little, the well known solicitor and magazine promoter of this city.

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## Lodge Directory

### LODGE DIRECTORY.

Pritchard Lodge No. 42, A. F. and A. M., meets the 1st and 3rd Monday in each month. All Master Masons in good standing welcome. R. G. Gray, W. M.; J. H. Snigler, Sec'y.

Rene Lodge No. 25, A. F. and A. M., meets the 1st and 3rd Monday in each month. All Master Masons in good standing welcome. F. W. Gilmore, W. M.; T. J. McCampbell, Sec'y.

Mt. Olive Lodge No. 63, A. F. and A. M., meets the 2nd and 4th Friday in every month. Visiting Master Masons are welcome. Thos. Jackson, W. M.; Frank Lowe, Secretary, 1111 Baltimore Ave.

U. B. F. King of the West Lodge No. 218 meets first and third Monday in each month at 568 Grand avenue. D. M. West, W. M., 1718 Euclid; Jas. Harris, Sec'y, 1722 Woodland Ave.

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